

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 HA-05 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 /082 W
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R 080829Z SEP 78
FM AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7607
INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CAPE TOWN 1467

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, SOCI, PINS, SF
SUBJ: CROSSROADS ARRESTS

REF: A. CAPE TOWN 1459
B. CAPE TOWN 1462

1. TWO COURTS IN LANGA (WNRICAN) TOWNSHIP HAVE BEEN WORKING FLAT OUT THE LAST TWO DAYS SENTENCING THE APPROXIMATELY 500 MEN AND WOMEN ARRESTED IN TUESDAY'S PRE-DAWN CORSSROADS RAID. SEVERAL HUNDRED WERE FOUND GUILTY OF BEING IN A PRESCRIBED AREA WITHOUT A PERMIT. THE COURTS IN ALMOST EVERY CASE IMPOSED ON THEM THE MAXIMUM SENTENCE OF R50 (\$57.50) OR 50 DAYS. OTHERS WERE FOUND GUILTY OF THE LESSER CHARGE OF NOT HAVING IDENTITY DOCUMENTS, AND FINED R5 OR 10 DAYS. YET ANOTHER GROUP, MEN WHO COULD PRESENT PERMITS AND IDENTITY DOCUMENTS, WERE ARRANGED IN COURT IN ATHLONE ON CHARGES OF "HARBORING." I.E., THEY HAD THEIR WIVES WITH THEM. THEY WERE FINED R30 OR 30 DAYS. COURT SESSIONS WERE OPEN TO
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PUBLIC.

3. MANY CROSSROADS ARRESTEES COMPOUNDED THEIR OWN MISERY BY PLEADING NOT GUILTY ON GROUNDS THEY PAID RENT IN CORSSROADS, AND THAT ACCEPTANCE OF SUCH RENT BY AUTHORITIES WAS IMPLICIHIPERMISSION TO RESIDE IN THE AREA. COURT REMANDED THESE INDIVIDUALS

(INCLUDING SOME WOMEN WITH CHILDREN ON THEIR BACKS)
IN CUSTODY PENDING HEARING TWO WEEKS HENCE.

4. SAG MAY HAVE HOPED THAT MASSIVE ARRESTS WOULD
FRIGHTEN PEOPLE OUT OF THE CAMP. HOWEVER, FEW IF ANY
ARRESTEES WHO PAID FINES HAVE PICKED UP THE RAIL TICKET
TO HOMELANDS OFFERED BY COURT. NOR ARE THEY LISTENING
TO BLACK SASH INTERPRETERS AND OTHERS CONCERNED FOR
SAFETY OF CAMP RESIDENTS WHO ARE NOW URGING THEM TO
"PACK IT IN." CROSSROADS RESIDENTS REMAIN PEACEFUL,
BUT SEEM DETERMINED TO STAY PUT. SITUATION HAS THE
EARMARKS OF AN EVENTUAL UGLY CONFRONTATION, AS TENSION
AND STUBBORNNESS MOUNT ON BOTH SIDES.

HLGREN

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